

RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT COORDINATING COMMITTEE
Department of Natural Resources
Room 1050
February 8, 2005

Minutes

Member Present:

Others Present:

FROST, Kim – Department of Natural Resources	HARJA, John – Department of Natural Resources
MILLIS, Eric – Division of Water Resources	HARRIS, Reed – Department of Natural Resources
HARTY, Kimm – Utah Geological Survey	WRIGHT, Carolyn – Department of Natural Resources
JAMES, Bill – Division of Wildlife Resources	HIGDON, Matthew – Bureau of Land Management
CHRISTY, Kim – School & Institutional Trust Lands	LANDURETH, Brenda – Department of Natural Resources
CLARK, Robert – DEQ/Air Quality	
WILDE, Kenneth – DEQ/Division of Drinking Water	
DANIELS, Ron – Division of Oil, Gas & Mining	
KAPPE, Karl – Division of Forestry, Fire & State Lands	
WATANABE, Judy – DPS/Emergency Services & Homeland Security	
SCHLOTTHAUER, Bill – Division of Water Rights	
SOWARDS, Glade – Utah Energy Office	
ZAREKARIZI, Susan – State Parks and Recreation	
REICHERT, Mike – DEQ/Division of Water Quality	
GUNNELL, Roy – Utah Department of Agriculture and Food	

Kim Frost called the meeting to order at approximately 9:05 a.m.

I. Approval of Minutes/Election

Corrections to the minutes:

Karl Kappe made a minor change to the minutes. Kimm Harty made a motion to approve the January 11, 2005 minutes with the change. Kim Christy seconded the motion. The minutes were unanimously approved.

Election

Kimm Harty, suggested finalizing the election for chair and vice-chair. Kimm Harty nominated Kim Frost as the new chair. Kim Frost nominated Kimm Harty as the vice-chair. Kimm Harty moved to approve accept these nominations. Bill Schlotthauer seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved the candidates. Kim Frost will be the chair and Kimm Harty will be the vice-chair.

II. Special Presentations/Discussions

Reed Harris, Lower Hobbie Creek Land Acquisition, Department of Natural Resources

June sucker are endemic to Utah Lake and are an endangered species requiring a second location for spawning in a tributary entering the lake. This proposal involves the acquisition of commercial property along Hobbie Creek from Rulon Condie to enhance June sucker spawning and rearing habitat.

The June Sucker Recovery Implementation Program (JSRIP) was finalized during April 2002. Currently, the Provo River is the only spawning ground for June sucker. Suitable spawning and rearing habitat entering Utah Lake is necessary to recover June sucker. The JSRIP has identified the need for a second location for June sucker spawning and rearing to reduce threats to the species and to expand available areas where recruitment may occur. All tributaries were evaluated for a second spawning population and Hobble Creek was deemed to have the best potential.

The Central Utah Project (CUP) will provide additional flow in the Provo River and Spanish Fork. CUP funding will provide additional water to increase flows and improve habitat to recover June suckers. Minimum flow requirements will be based on water availability and design to enhance flow for wetlands, Hobble Creek and Utah Lake.

The JSRIP asked Bio-West to investigate a potential spawning habitat and enhancement alternatives. Hobble Creek was identified as the preferred alternative. The project is located west of the north Springville interchange. The design will redirect Utah Lake System (Strawberry) water via the Mapleton Lateral down Hobble Creek to Utah Lake.

The Division of Forestry, Fire and State Lands (DFFSL) will own the property and the Division of Wildlife Resources (UDWR) and the JSRIP will manage the property. The DFFSL owns the adjacent property.

The city of Springville is supportive and is considering developing a trail along Hobble Creek. The property consists of 21.5 acres of farmland that has been subject to periodic inundation. This acquisition will include a 3:1 match with federal dollars. DNR contributes \$300,000 each year to the JSRIP for June sucker recovery from the Endangered Species Mitigation Fund at the present time. June Sucker recovery efforts are the highest priority for federal funding from the Recovery Lands Program in 2005. Rulon Condie is a willing seller and is asking for \$670,000 for the first payment in March.

The JSRIP has met with local mayors and meetings will continue with the cities. This project will enhance June sucker recovery efforts while providing opportunities for local government to provide public access to Utah Lake.

This project announcement will be on the Project Management Library soon for RDCC review and comment. The *Final Report for the Hobble Creek Habitat Enhancement Concepts to Benefit the Endangered June Sucker* is available if you would like to review a copy of this document. A brief handout

Bill Schlotthauer mentioned that a water commissioner would be necessary for Hobble Creek.

III. Reports from Agencies on Any Anticipated Projects

John Harja announced that the BLM is offering to bring the Vernal planning team to the Department of Natural Resources to answer any questions, in room 1060, at 11:00 a.m., on Monday, February 15, 2005.

Kim Christy, School and Institutional Trust Lands Administration (SITLA), is creating a prairie dog mitigation bank program for the southern part of the Parker Mountain area. Several agencies are working on a Habitat Conservation Plan to work with this listed species. SITLA hopes to sell credits in 4.5 months to allow for some development in Iron County.

John Harja announced that RDCC has been extended for another 10 years by the legislature.

Ron Daniels, Division of Oil, Gas and Mining (DOGM), reported that the minerals program is working on amendments for small mine bonding. Streamlining oil and gas permit process to be quicker and more efficient. The minerals program has been working on major rule-making effort.

Mike Reichert, Division of Water Quality, announced that the State Water Quality Standards document is now available. Contact Bill Moellmer for a copy of the plan at 538-6146.

Judy Watanabe, Division of Emergency Services, announced that the President signed a declaration proving funding for emergency funding. Federal Emergency Management Agency will provide 75 percent to cover infrastructure expenses for flooding in St. George. The area did not meet the criteria for homeowners to receive low interest loans. Damages to homes in several areas impacted by the flood are being combined from the same storm event to seek assistance for homeowners.

Glade Sowards, Utah Energy Office, announced that the recent news is that the energy office will be split up. Various scenarios are being considered. A project is overlaying state lands and UEO identified wind areas to determine what land ownership would be ideal to set up anemeters for wind studies and to evaluate potential wind resources.

Kim Christy, SITLA, asked who is working on renewable energy and wind projects? Glade Sowards mentioned that Nikole Littleboy is working on renewable energy and wind projects

Matthew Higdon, Bureau of Land Management (BLM), announced that the Vernal Resource Management Plan (RMP) meetings begin on February 8, 2005, and run into next week in Vernal, Utah. The Salt Lake City Vernal RMP meeting will be held on February 24, 2005, from 6:00-8:00 p.m., at the Salt Lake City Library. Vernal comments need to be completed by the end of the month. There is some confusion regarding Areas of Critical Environmental Concern and wild and scenic river suitability.

On February 15-16, 2005, the Sonoran Institute is conducting an Economic Profile Workshop for the BLM Cedar City Field Office. This is a workshop for the community to consider economic trends.

The Richfield RMP is on hold, since Chapter 4, has raised several issues and concerns. Many problems were identified in the initial review. Information was missing, incorrect, and confusing. John Harja will be commenting on land exchanges and Kim Frost will be commenting on economics.

The Final EIS of the Price RMP may be completed in May for review. The document will have a 60-day consistency review. The county is interested in being involved in the consistency review.

St. George, Utah is working on a Travel Management Plan for their field office that will amend their Land Use Management Plan. The state is a cooperating agency in this effort.

The number of protests received for BLM plans have increased.

Comments must be received regarding the Moab tailings by February 11, 2005.

The Policy Group (John Harja, Val Payne, Kim Frost and others from the RS277 group may moving to DNR. Representative Johnson H.B. 88 from last year has been amended to make direct statements. H.B. 64 regarding the transfer of forage for animal unit months to wildlife was written to prevent the retiring of grazing permits. No state agency can make any decisions inconsistent with other state agencies.

U.S. Forest Service has implemented new planning rules and have replaced resource allocation/zoning type planning to describing the desired future conditions. Strategic decision will replace concrete decisions in the planning process. Manti La Sal, Dixie and Fish Lake planning efforts will be able to choose the old or the new planning rules. Ashley National Forest will use the new rules. No Environmental Impact Statements (EIS) will be used during planning, only during the project implementation stage of the process. A legislative EIS will be used for recommendations regarding wilderness and wild and scenic river designation. This will accelerate the planning process.

H.B. 109 may create or consolidate information technology services into a new Department of Technology Services.

Bill James, Division of Wildlife Resources, reported that the recent snowstorms had created problems for big game in northern Utah. An emergency feeding program was initiated due to harsh conditions, stress on wildlife and public concern. Wildlife will benefit from increased stream flow and reservoir storage for future release of water.

Ten new applications have been recently submitted for mineral or oil and gas extraction. This increase in activity has created a need to validate existing surface rights and access.

Wildland-Urban Interface fire risk management will include thinning to enhance succession. The Buckskin Mountain Habitat Improvement project will help address the impacts of fire suppression that has resulted in the decline of aspen and pinyon-juniper encroachment. Treatments will help to restore grass and sage habitat. A pilot project in Cedar City will use pinyon-juniper to produce ethanol in a plant with grant money.

Susan Zarekarizi, State Parks and Recreation, announced a land trade for a paragliding park on top of Point of the Mountain. The site will consist of an area on top and a landing area. Land and Water Conservation funds will be used for this Utah Department of Transportation land exchange. The hang glider organization will assume liability.

The college is responsible for law enforcement for Range Creek. SITLA will retain two sections in Range Creek.

Karl Kappe, DFFSL, reported that the significant budget request to implement the Great Salt Lake Comprehensive Management Plan approval is looking favorable at this time.

Bill Schlotthauer, Division of Water Rights (DWRi), reported that John Mann will be replacing Jim Riley's position serving as the Utah Lake/Jordan River Regional Engineer. Ross Hansen to supervise the Weber River and West Desert Region.

IV. Review of Proposed Items as Listed on the Project Management Library

No discussion on this topic.

V. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 10:20 a.m. The next meeting will be held on March 8, 2005, at 9:00 a.m., in room 1050.